Reduction in the supply of coal to Karnataka

3828 SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that coal supply to Karnataka has been slashed by more than 50 per cent; if so, the reasons therefor;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Karnataka Chief Minister has urged for augmenting the supplies; and

(c) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI S. B. NYAMAGOUDA): (a) No, Sir. Both Coal India Limited (CIL) and Singareni Collieries Company Ltd. (SCCL) have been advised to supply coal to meet the requirement of power and cement units in Kanataka as per the demand agreed to in the Standing Linkage Committees (Short-term) of the Ministry of Coal. Coal supplies to these units have been generally satisfactory.

However, there have been some shortfalls in supply of coal to consumers in the non-core sector because of movement of coal on priority to core sectors like power Coal companies have been advised to supply to all non-core sector consumers, including those in Karnatka, at least 50% of their linked quantity of coal, by rail or by road.

(b) and (c) Chief Minister of Karnataka has urged the Ministry of Coal to augment the supply of coal to Raichur Thermal Power Station as well as to the Industries located in Karnataka State. Accordingly Ministry of Coal have advised coal companies to supply co a to consumers in Karnataka on the basis of their entitlements worked out in the manner detailed above.

Working of Coal India Limited and its subsidiaries

3829. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the newsitem which appeared in the Times of India, dated December, 25, 1991 entitled "CIL's working comes under fire from Ministry" if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Coal India Limited and its subsidiaries are responsible for erratic, delayed and short deliveries of coal and also for the lack of quality control;

(c) if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(d) what remedial steps Government propose to take in this regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI S. B. NYAMAGOUDA): (a) Yes, Sir. The news item referred to a meeting held on 23-12-91 between representative of coal consumers' associations etc. and officials of Ministry of Coal in which various issues pertaining to current distribution policy of coal, and the need for changes, if any, were discusssed.

(b) and (c) There have been some complaints from consumers regarding shortage in weight of coal received poor quality of coal, and delayed delivery of coal.

(d) Government have advised coal companies to strengthen their quality control infrastructure, instal weighbridges for proper weighment, grade the coal correctly, and establish coal handling plants, so that all coal is eventually despatched through these plants Coal companies have also set up national and regional coal consumers' councils to monitor redressal of consumers' complaints/grievances.

Award to an Officer of B.C.C.L. for Rescuing miners of Dhanbad Colliery

3830 DR. SUBRAMANIAN. SWAMY: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there was a disaster in Dhanbad colliery in 1989;

(b) whether it is also a fact that an Officer of B C.C.L. rescued the miners by devising a capsule; and

(c) if so, whether the officer has been awarded/rewarded by Government for this commendable act?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI S. B. NYAMAGOUDA): (a) to (c) There was no disaster in any of the collieries of Bharat Coking Coal Limited in Dhanbad in the year 1989. There was, however, a major accident in Mahabir Colliery of Eastern Coalfields Limited due to inundation in November, 1989. The workers trapped in the mine